

Message Text

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46

ORIGIN CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIA-06 /022 R

DRAFTED BY CU/EE:YRICHMOND:MM

APPROVED BY CU/EE:YRICHMOND

EUR/EE:HGILMORE DRAFT

CU/EE:BAVANT DRAFT

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P 111713Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 136145

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, YO

SUBJECT: US STUDENT PROGRAM, 1975/76

REF: BELGRADE 2487

1. DEPARTMENT IS CONCERNED BY REPEATED DELAYS IN YUGOSLAV ACCEPTANCE OF U.S. STUDENT NOMINATIONS. A CONSIDERABLE U.S. PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEM IS CAUSED BY YUGOSLAV DELAYS, AS EMBASSY AWARE. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED MANY LETTERS FROM CONGRESS AND U.S. UNIVERSITIES OVER PAST YEAR INQUIRING ABOUT YUGOSLAV DELAYS IN ACCEPTING U.S. STUDENTS FOR THIS PROGRAM ONE YEAR AGO. WE HAVE BEEN REPLYING THAT THE SITUATION OF YEAR AGO WAS EXCEPTIONAL AND THAT NO POLITICAL MOTIVES ARE TO BE SEEN IN YUGOSLAV FAILURE TO ACCEPT U.S. NOMINATIONS IN TIMELY MANNER. IF WE ARE NOW TO EXPERIENCE A SECOND YEAR OF DELAYS UNDER SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES, DEPARTMENT WOULD BE HARD PUT TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE EXPLANATION. FURTHERMORE WE WOULD HAVE GOOD REASON TO QUESTION YUGOSLAV ABILITY TO ADMINISTER ITS HALF OF A BILATERAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM WHICH HAS BEEN AGREED TO BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS.

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2. REQUEST EMBASSY DISCUSS WITH FAISECTC AT APPROPRIATELY
HIGH LEVEL. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE136145
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: YRICHMOND:MM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750203-1023
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750660/aaaaccnl.tel
Line Count: 63
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BELGRADE 2487
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US STUDENT PROGRAM, 1975/76
TAGS: OEXC, YO
To: BELGRADE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006